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**“...The one thing I would add is that the amount of the resource that we're talking about here makes it worth the effort. We're talking about six trillion cubic feet of natural gas in this area. We're talking about a billion barrels of oil. Clearly, it is in our Nation's interest to make this available for leasing.”**

***Sen. Jeff Bingaman***

***Feb. 16, 2006***

***Senate Energy Committee hearing on Lease Sale 181***

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